

# MCTSSA



## OneSource Brief

First Quarter, 2013

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES OF THE MARINE CORPS TACTICAL SYSTEMS SUPPORT ACTIVITY

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- Promotions, Awards, & Decorations
- MCSC Commander visits MCTSSA
- Sgt Houseman wins silver



During his first visit to the Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity (MCTSSA), MCSC SgtMaj Fletcher Pearson took the opportunity to meet and brief MCTSSA enlisted Marines, discussing the role of leadership on and off duty. The Sergeant Major also joined MCSC Commander, BGen

Frank Kelley and Deputy Commander SES, James Smerchansky to view many of the vast capabilities available within MCTSSA and the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch's test and evaluation labs and facilities.



# Promotions



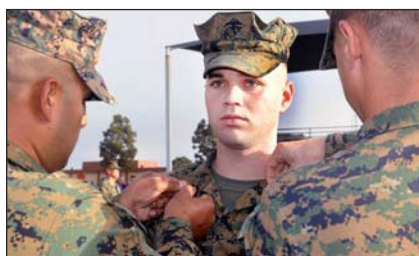
Cpl Jenna Patrick's father, Dennis Bernasconi, flew in from Sacramento, CA, in order to pin his daughter with the same insignia he wore as a Marine.



Corporal Ramon Boldo



Sergeant Kirstien Nunez



Sergeant Dylan Wakeland



Corporal Christopher Green



Corporal Carl Barbre



Corporal Alonso Ramos



Corporal Favian Ramirez-Benitez



Sergeant Kaleb Haywood



Sergeant Hector Gonzalez



LtCol Ahmed Williamson pins CW03 Robert Lee



MGySgt Robert Chaldekas joins SgtMaj Kenneth Warren to pin Master Sergeant Tobin Orr





—LANCE CORPORAL TO CORPORAL—

- Carl Barbre
- Ramon Bolds
- Christopher Green
- Jenna Patrick
- Favian Ramirez-Benitez
- Alonso Ramos
- William Harper III
- Brannon Kraft

—CORPORAL TO SERGEANT—

- Hector Gonzalez
- Kaleb Haywood
- Melinda Dunlap
- Thomas Haughey
- Jonathan Hinds
- Kirstien Nunez
- Andrew Segovia
- Dylan Wakeland

—MASTER SERGEANT—

- Tony Alfaro
- Tobin Orr
- Richard Stewart

—MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT—

- Dean Price

—WARRANT OFFICER—

- Christopher Requejo

—CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3—

- Robert Lee

—CAPTAIN—

- Eric Sharpe

—MAJOR—

- Miles Tiglao

Major Miles Tiglao receives his new field-grade insignia from his wife Heidi (left) and his mother Edelwina Tiglao.

## Awards & Decorations

### Meritorious Service Medal

Major Jonathan Disbro  
Master Sergeant Cesar Mercedes  
Master Sergeant Dean Price

### Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Major Kenneth Hollinger  
Gunnery Sergeant Fernando Garcia

### Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Staff Sergeant Erik Rosen



MCTSSA's Commanding Officer, Col Christopher Snyder, (left picture) and Executive Officer, LtCol Michael Carter, (right picture) award Major Jonathan Disbro and Master Sergeant Dean Price the Meritorious Service Medal, respectively.



*The Speed Limit Aboard MCTSSA is 15 mph!*



### FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

LtCol Michael Carter:  
michael.a.carter1@usmc.mil • (760) 725-2706



## Civilian Awards



MCTSSA's Commanding Officer, Colonel Christopher Snyder congratulates Susan Wyman, who —along with Jackie Crawford, Frank Gastelum, and Della Vincent — were recognized for their work and achievements while members of a MCTSSA cost code conversion team, which transitioned multiple, disparate cost center codes used by civilian personnel into one.

### Federal Length of Service Award

Ronald Taylor (25 years)  
Mark Nguyen (20 years)  
Lilian Xin (10 years)  
Cheryl Brennan (5 years)

### Civilian of the Quarter – 1st Qtr FY13

Scot Hoesly

### Civilian Promotions

Richard Domondon

### Special Acts Awards

#### *Cost Center Code Conversion Team*

Jackie Crawford  
Frank Gastelum  
Della Vincent  
Sue Wyman

### Time-Off Awards

Sharon Musgrave  
Vicky Lawrence

### Incentive Award for Trident Warrior

Scot Hoesly  
Mike O'Neil  
Don Shearer  
Michele Ta-a  
Pete Zenquis  
Sgt Jed Colcol  
Sgt William Reaves  
Sgt Augustus Richardson  
Cpl Thomas Haughey  
LCpl Jonathan Bui



For outstanding achievement in providing technical support and engineering event management in support of the Naval Research Lab technology demonstration of TACSAT 4 during the Trident Warrior Experiment 2012, LCpl Jonathan Bui (far left), Sgt Augustus Richardson, Sgt William Reaves, Michele Ta-a, Scot Hoesly, Don Shearer, Mike O'Neil and (not pictured) Cpl Thomas Haughey, Sgt Jed Colcol and Pete Zenquis were recognized by MCTSSA's Commanding Officer, Colonel Christopher Snyder, with special Incentive Awards.



Colonel Snyder congratulates Ronald Taylor for achieving 25 years of Federal Service.

### NEW ADDITIONS TO THE FAMILY

• Crystal & Jeff Ruple,  
a girl, January 20, 2013

• LCpls Estephani & Juan Soto,  
a girl, March 18, 2013

• Sgt Ashley & Bronson Morley,  
a girl, January 7, 2013



# MCTSSA takes 3rd in Small Team Rifle Competition

## *Sgt Houseman wins silver & bronze in pistol & rifle*



Hundreds of Marines line-up during the 2013 Western Division Matches held at Wilcox Range aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 26, 2013. The matches pit the best shooters across the Marine Corps against one another using the M-16/M-4 service

rifles and the M-9 service pistol. Insert: Brigadier General Coglianese, Marine Corps Installations West Commander, congratulates MCTSSA's Sgt Jesse Houseman for winning the silver medal in the pistol competition and the bronze in the rifle.

**MCTSSA** won third in the small unit, team rifle competition among the 63-shooting teams that competed in the 2013 Western Division Matches held at Camp Pendleton's Wilcox Range from February 25 to March 8.

In stiff competitions involving more than 300 shooters from west of the Mississippi, Sgt Jesse Houseman, an Operating Forces Support systems analyst, also won silver and bronze medals in pistol and rifle shooting matches, respectively, at distances that varied from 200 to 500 yards.

"It was humbling," says Houseman. "I came from Okinawa where the scores are generally lower because of the smaller pool that they can draw talent from...a medal over there is a lot easier;

here it was very hard... lot of good shooters out there."

The MCTSSA rifle team was composed of Sergeant Houseman, Sgt Thomas Haughey, Sgt Jonathan Browning, and Major Joe Blocker. Each of the shooters competed with M16A4 service rifles, equipped with rifle combat optics, and M9 service pistols. Shooters had to make every shot count throughout the competition in order to make the top 10 percent so as to qualify for the Marine Corps Championships.

"It was an exciting competition," say Major Blocker, MCTSSA's chief domain engineer for tactical networks. "It was the culmination of two weeks of shooting every day—learning and improving techniques. Sgt Houseman

filled the secondary role as coach, and he did a great job of providing mid-fire directions, helping bring shots of other team members into the black. Everyday I saw the scores of every member go up. Third place in the small unit competition is just the culmination of a lot of practice and hard work."

"The Marines give up two weeks to improve their marksmanship here at the matches," Chief Warrant Officer 4 Cecil Beltran, the marksmanship training branch officer at Pendleton. "The intent is to have them pass what they've learned here on to their fellow Marines."

Division Matches are more than a competition; they also serve as a way for participating Marines to fulfill their annual rifle qualification requirements. ■



## Major McKinney wins Pendleton Hard Corps Race Series Championship



Writing a feature story on a U.S. Marine winning a sporting event isn't normally a challenging or complicated exercise. Indeed, that was certainly a sport's writing truism until Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity's (MCTSSA) Major Casey McKinney won the Hard Corps Race Series Championship.

Sponsored by the Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC), the Hard Corps Race Series is actually comprised of numerous athletic competitions scheduled across a calendar year that include unique and challenging races ranging from bike races to a triathlon to a marathon...and yes, even a mud run! Involving thousands of participants, the top ten competitors in the four categories of male civilian, male military, female military, and female civilian acquire points from their standings in each race, but it's not necessary to compete in all the year's events. Points are accumulated throughout the season, with the Race Series' yearly Champion being the person who emerges as the highest point holder in each of the four categories.

The "Devil Dog Duathlon" was, for example, one of the first events in the Race Series where Major McKinney demonstrated his speed and racing talents.

"The Duathlon is a run, bike, run," says McKinney who is MCTSSA's Command and Control Chief Domain Engineer. "It's a 5 kilometer foot race, followed by a 30 kilometer (18 miles) bike race, followed by a second, 5 kilometer foot race." For that race—with more than 400 athletes cycling and sprinting to the finish line—Major McKinney's recorded time was 1 hour, 26 minutes, 10 seconds—the fastest in his category.

In another Series event called the "Sprint Triathlon," Major McKinney—who daily averages 8 miles of running coupled with 20-40 miles of biking — competed in a 500-yard ocean swim followed by an 18-mile road bike race, and topped off with another 5 kilometer run to win another first place in the Race Series' military category.

Several weeks later, there was the Camp Pendleton "Buffalo Alley" 10-kilometer run. In this competition, the Major and 750 other racers followed the same backcountry trails and winding hills and ridge-lines reaching elevations of approximately 1000 feet that the American buffalo once roamed. As picturesque and rugged as this run might sound, however, the most visually intriguing race within the Major's amazing event repertoire wasn't the Buffalo Alley run; it was Pendleton's world famous "Mud Run".

Originally developed to encourage civilians to come, participate and show their support for Marines, Pendleton's World Famous Mud Run—which includes tire obstacles, river crossings, 5-foot walls with mud on both sides, a tunnel crawl, and a final 30-foot mud pit—has for at least 15 years attracted thousands of runners to Pendleton for a day of challenging—if not spectacular—mud, mud, mud splashing fun. In this year's Mud Run, Major McKinney took second out of 2,717 participants.

After tallying up the points accumulated throughout the year from all the competitions, Major McKinney successfully captured the Hard Corps Race Series Championship crown.

"I've been doing endurance races since 2006," says the Major McKinney who competed in 13 race competitions last year at Camp Pendleton and around southern California. "It sometimes feels like a second job, but I enjoy the dedication and camaraderie between athletes, and best of all, I enjoy the results of my hard work."

One last detail on MCTSSA's new endurance racing champion: he's 42. "Ooh-Rah!" ■

**Hard Corps Race Series Champion Major Casey McKinney took first place in the annual Sprint Triathlon, one of several competitions held at Camp Pendleton as part of the yearlong Hard Corps Race Series. Training approximately 15 hours per week, Major McKinney competed in 13 racing competition last year at Camp Pendleton and around southern California. The Major's winning time for this Triathlon—a 500-yard swim, 18-mile road bike race, and a 5-kilometer run—was one hour, 21 minutes, and three seconds.**

Photo by: Denise McKinney



## Buck Connally Awarded Coveted National Copernicus Award

**E**arl 'Buck' Connally — MCTSSA's Branch Head for the Interoperability Branch, Test and Certification Group— has been named a recipient of the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association (AFCEA) Copernicus Award for his sustained, superior performance in the field of interoperability and command, control, communications, computers and intelligence/information technology (C4I/IT).

"It is very satisfying to be recognized," said Connally. "However, I am really a facilitator. This award actually reflects the achievements of our team of interoperability experts who deal with and do a great variety of things — such as joint and coalition data exchange standards, joint network designs, and joint C4I certification—efforts that also impact every single command and control system within the Marine Corps."

In receiving the award, Connally was cited for his hands-on, effective day-to-day directions and tactical systems interoperability contributions that have ensured Marines have the right information, at the right time and place to meet their command and control needs. He was also commended for his leadership in representing the U.S. Marine Corps' interest in this highly technical and critically important field within the Joint Service and NATO communities.

AFCEA and the U.S. Naval Institute (USNI) present the Copernicus Award to those who have demonstrated exceptional initiative, leadership and insight within the selectee's area of expertise.

"We are very proud of Buck being selected for the Copernicus Award," said Colonel Christopher Snyder, MCTSSA's Commanding Officer. "It truly represents the outstanding contributions and sustained superior performance he and his team have made to MCTSSA, our



USMC's Director of Command, Control, Communications and Computers (C4), Brigadier General Kevin Nally, presents MCTSSA's Buck Connally with the AFCEA International and U.S. Naval Institute's 2012 Copernicus Award for sustained, superior performance in the field of C4 during a ceremony during the AFCEA West's Conference and Symposium in San Diego, CA. Accompanying Mr. Connally at the presentation was his wife, Kathy.

nation's Coalition partners, and Marines around the world."

The Copernicus Awards were established in 1997. The name for the award came from the Copernicus Architecture used as the blueprint for the future command, control, communications, computers and intelligence structure of the Navy. Recipients are selected based on their sustained superior performance in jobs related to C4I/IT. Navy judges who review applications from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, including active duty and civilian nominees selected this year's 31 awardees. ■

## Theater Medical Systems Test Conducted at MCTSSA

The Theater Medical Information Program (TMIP) is a software suite that automates and integrates clinical care documentation, medical supplies, equipment, and patient movement for all the military services. Its purpose is to manage patient encounters from the front edge of the battle space through all echelons, capturing and linking all levels of medical care in an integrated, interoperable fashion to provide enhanced medical care to the warfighter.

In February, MCTSSA supported the TMIP Program Manager to conduct of a Systems Acceptance Test (SAT) in preparation for a multi-service operational test and evaluation.

For the acceptance test, 17 medical-related personnel, including two doctors, came to MCTSSA for two weeks.

"The first week was for training," says Kevin Leahy, MCTSSA's TMIP (SAT) Event Director. "The second week was the actual conduct of the testing. They went through



CAPT Brian Smoley, USN, a surgeon with the 1st Marine Division, was one of two physicians and other medical staff to participate in the TMIP acceptance testing held at MCTSSA.

225 scenarios that are supported by TMIP. The scenario could be a simple nose bleed or a massive chest wound—a whole range of medical encounters from sick call to the forward edge of the battle space where people are engaged in enemy action."

Whatever the medical encounter, TMIP allows for that encounter to be moved in an automated way throughout echelons of care, capturing all the medical information so that it follows a patient from, for example, the battle field to a hospital, and ultimately even into the Veterans Administration system following discharge.

"Two of the 17 participating personnel were associated with medical logistics; two were pharmacists; and the rest were medical physicians or personnel involved in corpsman duties," says Leahy. "The acceptance test was successful, so the next step will be the Multi-Service Operational Test and Evaluation later this spring." ■

## Commander's Perspective

**M**arines, family and friends,

The new year has been full of events for MCTSSA and AVTB. Besides executing the daily missions of testing and engineering new and fielded systems, and providing support to the operating forces, we have had additional opportunities to improve and build on our successes. One such event, held in early March, was a training event with Mr. Steven Gaffney that proved entertaining, yet both personally and professionally rewarding based on the feedback received. Some of you at home reading this letter may have been the recipients of Mr. Gaffney's techniques.

The following week we received a visit from the Command Team at Quantico. It was an exciting opportunity to give BGen Kelley an initial tour of AVTB, showcasing their talents and capabilities followed by an update on current major projects that MCTSSA is supporting with Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC). The visit was also an opportunity for the new MCSC SgtMaj to meet his Marines stationed at Camp Pendleton and observe them in action. Additionally, Mr. Smerchansky presented the Engineering Town Hall to update all concerned on engineering efforts across MCSC.

Family readiness remains important. Recently, the Marines have been completing Family Care Plans. This is a key document that will assist you and your love ones when a deployment or emergency arises. Take the time now to ensure it is an accurate and well thought out representation of your expectations for your situation. Although MCTSSA is not a deploying operational unit, short notice orders and operational requirements may arise that we all have to respond to and family readiness is essential when that occurs. Please take the time to read about all your team members' accomplishments in this newsletter. There are many incredibly talented people in this command who continue to amaze me with their commitment to the Marine Corps and supporting the warfighter.

As you head into spring break, please spend some quality time with your families and be safe in all you do. Start your planning for the annual MCTSSA Beach Bash to be held on 27 June at the Del Mar beach.

*Semper Fi,*  
Col Chris Snyder



## Author, Steven Gaffney Holds 'Notice vs. Imagine' Teamwork Presentation

In early March, MCTSSA's workforce had a unique opportunity to listen and take part in a "Notice vs. Imagine" presentation by Steven Gaffney, a leading expert on honest, interpersonal communication designed to boost teamwork and collaboration.

"The first key is understand that our assumptions, opinions, and conclusions are not always accurate," said Gaffney. "Sometimes they are, but we must always remain open to the probability that they aren't"

According to Mr. Gaffney, this disconnection may sound simple, and it is, but just think of how often people operate and make decisions as if their opinions are fact rather than exploring the real truth.

Gaffney's lively, interactive presentation — coupled with a workshop held the following day for senior personnel — was designed to demonstrate tools and techniques for improving open, honest communication and to provide a forum to practice them.

On 10 April from 1000-1100 everyone will have an opportunity to participate in a teleconference facilitated by Mr. Gaffney, so as to share your success stories and best practices. ■





## BGen Kelley Surveys MCTSSA's and AVTB's Capabilities



AVTB's Metrology Lab Supervisor Larry Baker describes to BGen Kelley a vast array of sensors and devices used by AVTB to monitor, measure and document amphibious vehicle operations and sea conditions during testing. General Kelley's visit to AVTB was his first since becoming MCSC Commander.



MCTSSA Technical Support Officer Scot Hosely explains some of the networking features found on the Network On-the-Move (NOTM) Point of Presence vehicle to BGen Kelley. This NOTM vehicle was used in extensive developmental testing and evaluation recently concluded by MCTSSA.

**MCSC** Commander BGen Frank Kelley—accompanied by Mr. James Smerchansky, Deputy Commander for SIAT and MCSC Sergeant Major Fletcher Pearson—received tours and face-to-face briefs at Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity (MCTSSA) and the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch (AVTB) at Camp Pendleton on March 11 and 12th.

During his busy schedule—which included visits to all of AVTB's test and evaluation facilities, as well as MCTSSA's new Combat Operation Center facility, the Virtual Rapid Prototyping Lab, and an examination of a Network On-the-Move Point of Presence (PoP) vehicle — General Kelley took time to shake hands and speak with numerous Marines and Civilian Marines.

Following the capability tours, Mr. Smerchansky presented an Engineering Town Hall where he emphasized to MCTSSA's and AVTB's technical workforce how rigorous engineering processes and convictions were paramount to MCSC's mission of effectively and safely delivering capabilities to the operationing forces in a timely manner. ■

Tactical Data Systems Administrator Corporal Ryan Bennett briefs BGen Kelley and Mr. Smerchansky on an array of displays used for monitoring Air Command and Control systems testing within MCTSSA's Aviation Combat Element (ACE) lab.



BGen Kelley meets Sergeant Rommel Plantinos (left) and Lance Corporal Norman Cahoon, Aviation Communication Systems Technicians working on the Common Aviation Command and Control System (CAC2S) testing during his tour of MCTSSA's Aviation Combat Element (ACE) lab.



## MCTSSA Reinigorates Motorcycle Safety

Prompted by a rising fatality rate among Marine motorcyclists, the Commandant of the Marine Corps launched a Marine Corps wide mandatory mentoring program a few years ago. Today, Sergeant Major Kenneth Warren is reinvigorating that effort for Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity's (MCTSSA) Motorcycle Club.

"We're developing a more focused concentration on motorcycle safety," says SgtMaj Warren, who is also serving as the Club's President. "We're discussing motorcycle safety and having guest speakers come in to educate everyone — Marines and civilians — in order to heighten their awareness. We're also sharing our memberships' riding experience, making it available to everyone — young and old alike."

Some members, such as Sergeant Major Warren, have 30-32 years experience; so a key intent of the club is to help inexperienced riders learn from the experiences of the advanced riders. However, it's not a one-way street. Often, the experienced rider will learn from an amateur, much like a teacher learns from his students, thus enhancing everyone's skills and knowledge.

"Our goal is to ensure that everyone is operating a motorcycle safely," says SgtMaj Warren. "We have a monthly meeting where

we may have a guest speaker, go over safety procedures, or discuss a safety topic or information on the street, followed by an optional pre-routed ride."

The ride, which lasts about two hours, is designed to be not only fun, but also educational. After each ride, the group stops, usually to have lunch, and then the debriefs and experience sharing start.

"It's really good for developing peoples' riding skills," says SgtMaj Warren. "Riding by group focuses your riding ability, unlike when you're riding alone. When you're riding in a group you have a serious responsibility to concentrate on your riding and what you're doing—because your ability or inability will immediately affect a lot of people. The debrief gives everyone a chance to talk directly about what we did and any issues. It makes a big difference when Marines understand it's not just about them riding; it's about a bigger picture."

Currently, MCTSSA's Motorcycle Club has 40 members, and while attendance is mandatory for Marines, it's not for civilians.

"It's a great opportunity for our civilian Marines," says Warren "to develop a relationship among those who share a similar interest." Civilians who are interested in joining should contact SgtMaj Warren.

*"Our goal is to ensure that everyone is operating a motorcycle safely"*

SgtMaj Kenneth Warren

